Power generation with smokeless coal

†3886. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are working on a scheme (FurtherGen) to produce power with smokeless coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also taking help of private sector for the same, and

(d) if so, the details and expected cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. India has, on 3rd of April 2006, signed a Framework Protocol with USA on cooperation on the FutureGen Project initiated by USA as a public-private partnership. This project aims to create the world's first coal-based, zero-emission electricity and hydrogen production power plant.

This is a US $ 950 million project. India's contribution will be US$ 10 million payable over a period of five years.

Action Plan for Rural Electrification in Tamil Nadu

3887. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate an action plan for rural electification in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has accorded financial approval to the said plan;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the said plan is likely to be implemented?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.